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to begin with. And if we are going to have rules, let's have them, in my opinion or else let's not have any. And my question to you is, are we bypassing the rules which we adopted with your motion and I would like a little more clearer explanation?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Sure. No. In fact, Senator Carsten, we are honoring the rules that we adopted because the rules said unequivocally if somebody misses three times in succession they are not a member of the committee. The rule never dealt with the issue of who was excused or who was not excused. We simply never discussed that as you may recall when we put that on and we are honoring the rules by making it clear that this body is restoring Senator DeCamp to the committee. In other words, the body recognized the rule is out there, he has missed three times in succession and he should be restored to the committee. Why? Because he has been out of this country, because he has been excused from the Legislature. He has been excused from the Legislature. If he is excused from the Legislature, surely he is excused from the committee. That is all.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: If I may continue, Mr. President, it appeared to me that we as a committee adopted rules to operate under separate and apart from the operating rules of the Legislature, and if that is true, I would submit to you, Senator Johnson, that what we are doing does not relate to the rules of the Legislature at all.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, in our respect to Senator Carsten and his remarks, to me this is no different than a Senator being in the hospital for three days and/or having a death in the family for three days and being gone from the body. This is something that Senator DeCamp or any Senator did not know was going to happen and it did happen and, therefore, even though it be Senator DeCamp or Senator Haberman or somebody else, I believe that if you want to call them the exception to the